

***Third Sunday of Advent:  
Emmanuel, God With Us  
December 13, 2020  
#BiggerBalcony***



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 13, 2020 10:00 am

#BiggerBalcony

*Please sign in to Worship Connect to let us know you're here!*

*<http://tiny.cc/worshipconnect>*

*This year we'll hear anew the stories of Advent through people who experienced the presence of God with them in real yet mysterious ways. Sunday's messages will correlate with chapters from Amy-Jill Levine's book Light of the World (to be discussed in the Wednesday night Forums).*

*All are welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.*

**The Journey to Joy**

*Faithful Simeon & the prophet Anna are some of the first to meet Jesus after his birth; they each proclaim the infant savior and redeemer, rejoicing that they met him before they'd died.*

**PRELUDE**

"Ave Maria"  
by Franz Schubert

Judy Widrig  
Clara & Mia Kelly

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Weasley

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Kelly Balzer, Renee Archer,  
Riley, and Zachary

ADVENT CHANT

“Come Infant of Hope”  
by Ruth Cunningham, alt.  
*come Infant of Hope into my heart*  
*come Wisdom of Spirit into my heart*

Lucy Bledig

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sharon Benton

SUNG RESPONSE

“Angels Might Be Anywhere at All”  
by Tom Hunter

Musical score for the song "Angels Might Be Anywhere at All" by Tom Hunter. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are: "CHORUS: An - gels might be a - ny - where at all Lis - ten - ing gos - sip - ping, a - ny-where at all. On a cloud or a roof - top, climb - ing up the wall An - gels might be a - ny-where at all". The chords are indicated by letters C, F, G above the notes.

CHORUS: An - gels might be a - ny - where at all Lis - ten - ing  
gos - sip - ping, a - ny-where at all. On a cloud or a roof - top,  
climb - ing up the wall An - gels might be a - ny-where at  
all

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Rene Archer &amp; Riley Archer-Balzer

*There are several options for giving: 1) Mail checks to First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225. 2) Give at our website, <https://fccb.net/giving/>. 3) Use the GivePlus app. Download from your app store, set up an account, and give! 4) Give by text. Text a dollar amount to 208-516-2657, and set up your account. You're ready for easy giving by text! 5) Give by PayPal. Our easy link is [PayPal.Me/fccbu](https://www.paypal.com/mefccbu).*

*If you have not yet returned your pledge form for 2021, please do so to help us continue to Innovate Church and Sustain Community! Thank you.*

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Unbroken Circle

by Regney/Shayne. Text: © 1963, Shawnee Press

**DOXOLOGY**

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Singing songs in darkness bold, drawing warmth out of the cold;  
Waiting now for Wisdom's cry, with your Love in rich supply—  
"Fear not, and draw near! Fear not, and draw near!"*

**A READING FROM SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:21-40

Reader's Theater

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

**One:** For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us:

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"The Journey to Joy"

Sharon Benton

Kay Marsh, Vocalist



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

*William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays.*

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain  
 English traditional melody, 16th century

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

David Wesley

**The Prayer of Jesus**

*We invite you to use the language for God that is most comfortable for you:*

*“Our Creator,” “Our Father” or “Our Mother.”*

**Our Creator**

who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil,

**For thine is the kingdom,**

and the power,

and the glory,

forever and ever. *Amen.*

**BENEDICTION**

Sharon Benton

**POSTLUDE**

“Joy to the World”

Arr. by K.Agioritis. Used with permission.

Bryce Fegley, Trombone, Oscar Fegley, Trumpet.

*Stay online for a few minutes to chat with the pastors and others.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT EVENTS

Advent Wednesday Worship, **Wednesdays, 7:30 pm** on Zoom

Christmas Eve Services

- **December 24, 5:00 pm** on Facebook Live: [https://www.facebook.com/fccbucc/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/fccbucc/live_videos/)
- **December 24, 11:30 pm**, on Zoom

### WORSHIP:

- **Sundays, 10:00 am**—Worship on Facebook Live. #BiggerBalcony

**WAYS TO CONNECT:** For more information about these and other groups and activities, contact [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net).

#### • **Monday**

- Poetry Writing Group: **1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm**
- Happy Hour: **1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm**

#### • **Tuesday**

- Book Club, **First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 am**
- Bible Study for Everyone, **Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am**. The reading for **December 20** is **Matthew 1:18-2:15**.
- PJs & Storytime, **6:30 pm**

#### • **Wednesday**

- Adult Forums, **6:30 pm**. Advent Book Study.
- Faith Formation for Children & Youth, **6:30 pm**. *Six Vital Themes of Our Faith*
- Advent Wednesday Worship, **7:30 pm**

#### • **Thursday**

- Morning Coffee Group: **1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:30 am**
- Poetry Writing Group, **1:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**
- Evening Book Club, **6:30 pm weekly**

#### • **Friday**

- Knitting Group, **Fridays, 10:00 am**
- Mystery Book Club, **1st Friday, 1:00 pm**.
- Coffee Hour, **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays. 1:00 pm**

#### • **Saturday**

- Create & Check In, **every other Saturday, 10:00 am**

*To stay up to date, follow us on social media, subscribe to our Friday Email, or check in with our Full Circle Blog, [https://www.fccb.net/blog/..](https://www.fccb.net/blog/)*

**Open and Affirming (ONA):** As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**We Try To Use Language** which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

**Technical Support:** If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

### **VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF**

In the before time, our pastoral staff were available by appointment. In COVID-19 time, they are available for virtual meetings by appointment. Contact them by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255

Sharon: [sharon@fccb.net](mailto:sharon@fccb.net)

David: [david@fccb.net](mailto:david@fccb.net)

Sharry: [sharry@fccb.net](mailto:sharry@fccb.net)

You can also email our Office Manager  
Cydne at [office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net)  
and she'll pass your message on.

### **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ**

*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225

Church Office: 360-734-3720

**24/7 Emergency Pastoral Care: 360-733-4255**

[office@fccb.net](mailto:office@fccb.net) • [www.fccb.net](http://www.fccb.net)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbucc](https://facebook.com/fccbucc)

Twitter: @BhamUCC

*Office Hours: 9:00 am-5:00 pm*

**LEAD PASTOR: Sharon Benton**

**PASTOR FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS,**

**& MISSION: David Weasley**

**MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION:**

**Sharry Nyberg**

**MINISTER OF MUSIC: Lucy Bledig**

**NURSERY ATTENDANT: Lisa Vaughn**

**ORGANIST: Judy Widrig**

**HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Allison Thomas**

**OFFICE MANAGER: Cydne Cochran**

**ACCOUNTANT: Renée Relin**

**CUSTODIAN/MAINTENANCE: Kurt Aagard**

**CARE ADMIN. SUPPORT: Laura Norton**

**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:**

**Alanna Steele**

**HEALTH MINISTER: Carol Nicolay**

**MODERATOR: Caryl Dunavan**

**VICE MODERATOR: Bill Henkel**

**PAST MODERATOR: Scout Mitchell**

**CLERK: Dorothy Shimer**

**TREASURER: Laurie Hoyt**

**HISTORIAN: Stacy Miller**

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